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AUSTRALIAN SYSTEMATIC BOTANY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter No. 14

March 1978

A.S.B.S. Council

- President Prof. Roger Carolin, School of Biological Sciences,
University of Sydney, Sydney, N.S.W. 2006.
- Vice-President Mr Rod Henderson, Queensland Herbarium, Meiers Road,
Indooroopilly, Queensland, 4068.
- Secretary Mrs Karen Wilson, National Herbarium, Royal Botanic
Gardens, Sydney, N.S.W. 2000.
- Treasurer Mr Mike Lazarides, Herbarium Australiense, CSIRO,
Box 1600, Canberra City, A.C.T. 2601
- Councillors Mr Alex George, Western Australian Herbarium, Dept
of Agriculture, George Street, South Perth, Western
Australia, 6151.
- Dr John Jessop, South Australian Herbarium, North
Terrace, Adelaide, South Australia, 5000.

This publication, the official newsletter of the Society, is produced four times each year and deadlines for copy are the last day of February, May, August and November.

Please Note Mr Alex George is to be Newsletter Editor for issue No. 15 and subsequent issues. Please send contributions, preferably typed in duplicate, to Alex at his address above. Items from any source and of interest to members are acceptable.

Next deadline is 31 May, 1978.

Subscriptions for 1978 are now due. (Members in Australia \$6.00 or \$4.00 if paid by 31 March, 1978. Overseas Members US \$8.00 or equivalent).

Editor of Issue 14: Mr Rod Henderson
Queensland Herbarium

Editorial

This issue sees my final effort in production of the newsletter. Alex George has agreed to handle further production to enable me to prepare for and fill the position of Australian Botanical Liaison Officer at Kew after Bruce Maslin finishes his term there later this year.

I sincerely hope contributors will give Alex the support I'm pleased to say I received. Without it, the Newsletter committee would not have been able to have earlier issues of the newsletter so newsy and appearing on time.

I found participation in production of the newsletter a personally rewarding experience and hope Alex will also.

The Constitution and Rules of the Society ensure that council members do not hold their office indefinitely. I believe it is also to the benefit of the Society that others be given the opportunity to fill the position of Newsletter Editor to introduce fresh ideas and express their views.

With members' support, the newsletter will contribute significantly to strengthen the Society and to further its aim of effective communication in the field of Systematic Botany of Australian plants.

Rod Henderson

The Wongan Hills

Located 194km NE of Perth, W.A., Wongan Hills township is the centre of a large wheat and sheep farming district. The Wongan Hills, a range of flat-topped hills, (after which the town was named), lie 12km to the NW and cover an area of approximately 1750ha.

The Hills are composed of outcropping greenstone rocks which are overlain with a laterite cap. Deep gullies with lateritic breakaways are common within the Hills. Because of the difficulty in farming the Hills, their vegetated portion is the largest single area of natural vegetation remaining in the northern wheatbelt, an area in which,

unhappily, there are no major conservation reserves. Most of the area covered by the Hills is freehold land and its future as a 'conservation reserve' is dependent on the goodwill of the landowners. Only one reserve of 417ha occurs in the Hills. This is an "A Class" reserve and is vested in the Western Australian Wildlife Authority for the protection of flora and fauna.

The Hills are extremely important both historically and biologically. Named in 1836 by Surveyor-General J.S. Roe, they were subsequently visited as early as 1842 by the colonial botanist James Drummond and John Gilbert, the noted collector employed by the famous British ornithologist John Gould. Many specimens obtained from the Hills by these men were new to science. They include the Blue-breasted Wren (Malurus pulcherrimus) and the Winter Spider Orchid (Caladenia drummondii). During the intervening years, several other naturalists and scientists have collected in this area thus making the Wongan Hills the only known wheatbelt area to be continuously reported on from 1836.

The flora of Wongan Hills, although representative of wheatbelt vegetation, also contains species such as Dryandra comosa and the triggerplant Stylidium coroniforme which are not known from anywhere else. It also contains species which are at the limit of their known range of distribution. Over two hundred and fifty species of flowering plants have been recorded from the Hills.

K.F. Kenneally, Perth.

EUCALIST - A Means To An End

G.M. Chippendale

Ideas on the use of computers in herbaria are well-explored by Brennan, Ross and Williams (1975). When I found the need for label data of Eucalyptus specimens some years ago, I became convinced that computer data storage would make it available not only to me but to all others in the future.

In devising a data sheet for recording information, I made initial enthusiastic mistakes, for I included such bits of information as bark type, bark colour, bark extent, habit, soil type, habitat, the Blakely number, and the Pryor & Johnson coding. Some of this

information is often rather subjective, sometimes misleading, and, more often than not, completely missing.

At a meeting in Canberra in February 1971, there was a discussion on the storage and retrieval of herbarium label information. Selwyn Everist stated "The kind of questions we are going to be asked most often are: what is the distribution of the specimens you have identified as such and such..... what are the plants growing in a certain region..... when does such and such a flower or fruit.....". I had just reached the same conclusion and so modified my data sheet for Eucalyptus.

The EUCALIST programme, when completed, can be used to show the holdings of any herbarium, the complete collections of historic workers, the changes which may take place over a long period, associations of species, the location of type specimens, the species in any given area, the distribution of any species, the flowering period of any species, or a listing of cultivated specimens.

A common criticism is that one gathers all the errors in herbaria. Indeed there are incorrect determinations and misplaced specimens in all herbaria, but the significance of this should be seen in the light of the use of the data. In dealing with ALL of the specimens, the bulk of data is going to help point out errors. For instance, with the distribution of a species, any record outside its main distribution should be checked. Gathering and processing of data is most time-consuming, and some aspects of it are monotonous or unattractive to workers.

I began by recording from the specimen directly to a data sheet, but more recently I began using photographic means of capturing the information, as mentioned by Adams & Weber (1976) who advocated use of 8mm movie film in single frames. The main advantage of photography is that of economy in travelling expenses, but translating the information to data sheets and the appending of map references, still has to be done.

A most convenient method is to use an 80-digit computer card for each specimen, and when all specimens have been so recorded, establish a bank of computer tapes or discs with programmes for all possible retrievals.

The fields on the final data sheet were allocated as follows:

Columns 1-3 : three letters to indicate the species. Blakely numbers, and Pryor & Johnson codings used up 4 or 6 spaces, and were not used.

- Columns 4-6 : herbarium where specimen is located, using recognised herbarium abbreviations as far as possible.
- Columns 7-12 : Originally allocated for institutional numbers, but now only used for this purpose if there is no other way to indicate a specimen; now also used to indicate presumed parents of hybrids.
- Columns 13-15: collector, by up to three initials. A list of collectors is developed and constantly added to. Only one collector shown in each case.
- Columns 16-20: collectors number.
- Columns 21-28: date in full, using only figures.
- Columns 29-32: altitude in metres.
- Columns 33-38: two associated Eucalyptus species.
- Columns 39-48: presence of buds, flowers, fruits, seeds, juvenile foliage, photo, bottled material, wood or bark, pollen or microslide; these are indicated by an asterisk.
- Columns 49- : typification. I compiled a list of types of all species names and synonyms, though in many cases there is the problem of just what is the type. Some judgements in this category may need further checking with detailed work on particular species.
- Columns 50-58: latitude and longitude; the vagueness of past and some present collectors is a constant problem. This highlights the point that all collectors should aim for accuracy and clarity when recording localities. Collectors should put latitude and longitude readings on their labels as soon as possible, preferably on the day of collection.
- Columns 59-80: locality in plain language; abbreviations are used, and most localities can be fitted into this space, though some may not be complete. Also in this field, columns 59-62 are used to indicate cultivated specimens by inserting the abbreviation CULT.

At present, completed cards are stored alphabetically by species. Much information is presently available and has been already used by high degree students at a number of universities, and by several current researchers in Eucalyptus.

Information has been largely completed for gatherings in Kew, British Museum (Nat. History), Perth, Melbourne and Herbarium Australiense. Almost completed are those in Sydney and Adelaide, and planned to be completed this year are those in the remaining official herbaria in Australia. Some University herbaria may also be included.

Data sheets are not completed for duplicate specimens. Sheets are completed only for the original specimen in the issuing herbarium.

The above is an abstract of a talk delivered to the Canberra Chapter on 14 February, 1978.

References:

- Adams, Robert P. & Weber, William, A. 1976. An efficient method for capture and transmission of specimen label information. *Taxon* 25(4), 479-482.
- Brenan, J.P.M., Ross, R & William, J.T. 1975. *Computers in Botanical Collections*. 216 pp. Plenum Press, London and New York.

NANCY T. BURBIDGE MEMORIAL LECTURE

Following discussion with the Canberra Chapter secretary and other interested members, Council decided at their recent meeting to establish a Memorial Lecture in memory of the late Dr Nancy Burbidge.

The lecture will be delivered as part of either the botanical programme of ANZAAS congresses or the General Meetings of ASBS. The lecturer, who will be selected by Council, will be invited to speak on any aspect of the Australian flora, thus honouring Dr. Burbidge's substantial contribution to our knowledge of our flora.

ASBS will contribute to the lecturer's expenses as far as financially possible.

To make this feasible, members are invited to make donations to ASBS funds.

Donations may be sent to the Treasurer, Mike Lazarides, with cheques made out to "Australian Systematic Botany Society", and an accompanying note stating that it is for the Nancy Burbidge Memorial Lecture. All donations will be acknowledged in the newsletter.

K.L. WILSON

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT - 13TH INTERNATIONAL BOTANICAL CONGRESS

Chairman of the Programme Committee: Dr L.T. Evans.

Chairman of the Field Trips Committee: Professor L.D. Pryor,

FIRST CIRCULAR: will be mailed in AUGUST 1979. Send your name and FULL address, preferably on a post card, to ensure your inclusion on the mailing list.

ENQUIRIES should be sent to the Executive Secretary, Dr. W.J. Cram.

ADDRESS: 13th I.B.C., University of Sydney, N.S.W. 2006.

ASBS COUNCIL MEETING - SYDNEY UNIVERSITY, 15th Feb 1978

Present: R. Carolin, R. Henderson, J. Jessop, K. Wilson, and E. Canning (representing the Canberra Chapter and M. Lazarides).

Apologies: M. Lazarides, A. George.

Correspondence:

The President reported the following correspondence:-

1. With the Minister for Science, Senator Webster. The President wrote to the Minister requesting information about the state of the ABRS Flora Project, since no leader had been appointed yet to replace Nancy Burbidge, and he urged that a plant taxonomist should be appointed to the position. The Minister replied that though there had been administrative difficulties in appointing a new leader, work on the project was continuing as Nancy Burbidge had begun it. The President is to write again to the Minister to urge the setting up of the ABRS Advisory Committee as soon as possible. He is also to seek release of the reports of ASTEC and the ABRS Interim Council. He is to ask for a list of grants for the current year and an account of current projects.

2. With Heads of Herbaria Committee (CHAH). Following discussion at the ASBS General Meeting in Melbourne re an undirected Flora of Australia, the President wrote to CHAH and also had discussions with Dr Eichler about the future of the project. The present situation is not clear, according to Dr Jessop and the President. The CHAH have discussed such a Flora and hope to obtain finance from ABRS for printing covers for contributions and possibly for buying extra reprints. It is thought that most contributions would come through the herbarium journals so another possibility would be for each herbarium to pay for its own reprints. The President is to write again to CHAH supporting it in trying to get this project going as soon as possible.

Next General Meeting

Council agreed on Sydney as venue for the next GM which is to be held on the afternoon of Thursday or Friday before the ANZAAS Congress (22-26 January 1979) with a dinner (including an address) in the evening. The President and Secretary are to organize details.

Contributions to the next ANZAAS Congress

It was decided that the Society will not organise any sessions or part-sessions at the ANZAAS Congress to be held in New Zealand.

International Botanical Congress in Sydney, August 1981

It was agreed that the Society should aim to organize a dinner and address during the Congress.

Memorial to Nancy Burbidge/Library for A.B.L.O.

Miss Canning reported on behalf of the Canberra Chapter that a meeting had been held in Canberra on the previous evening. That meeting put forward five recommendations for consideration by Council as to a memorial to Dr N.T. Burbidge.

After discussion, Council agreed to accept these recommendations with slight changes to ii.

It is resolved that:-

- (i) A Nancy T. Burbidge Memorial Lecture be established.
- (ii) The lecture form part of the botanical programme of ANZAAS meetings (or general meetings of ASBS at the discretion of Council).
- (iii) The subject of the lecture be a topic dealing with an aspect of the Australian flora.
- (iv) The lecturer be selected by Council of ASBS and any necessary subvention be assisted by ASBS.
- (v) ASBS Council Secretary invite members to contribute to ASBS funds (as memorial to N.T.B.) in several consecutive issues of the ASBS Newsletters and that any other invitations to subscribe be handled by a Committee from Canberra Chapter.

The question of a small reference library for the Botanical Liaison Officer at Kew was then discussed as a separate issue. It was pointed out that the position would be administered by ABRS in the near future but CSIRO is still currently the organization in charge. It was decided to write to CSIRO (and possibly to industry sources of funds also) about providing such a library, given that ASBS does not have the money to do so itself.

Flora of Central Australia

Dr Jessop reported that he had received few drafts from authors but that he had not expected many to be ready yet since most authors had indicated they would be heavily committed on other projects in 1977.

The death of Mr John Carrick will mean a re-distribution of the families for which he was intending to prepare treatments.

It has not been possible yet to find an illustrator for the Flora but several possibilities are to be investigated in Adelaide, Brisbane and Sydney. The provision of colour photographs is yet to be decided.

A chapter on the phytogeography of the region is considered desirable and Dr Jessop is to approach Dr John Beard about writing this.

Dr Jessop received a letter from Bruce Maslin about the possibility of producing a poster or wall-chart of the C.A. flora as a supplement to the Flora (not necessarily to be sold as part of the Flora). Possible sponsors and artists were discussed.

Newsletter Editorship

With Mr Rod Henderson going overseas later this year as A.B.L.O. at Kew, he is handing over the job of Newsletter Editor to Mr Alex George who will do the job for a year initially.

Cost of production of the newsletter was discussed. The Secretary reported that she had made enquiries about off-set printing the newsletter and had obtained four quotations for this job. After discussion it was agreed to try the Environment Centre for production of one of our supplementary publications as a trial.

Research List (ICTRAF)

Dr Whiffin has finished collecting data (including details of c. 50 overseas projects on Australian plants) and has nearly completed punching-up the data on computer cards. Shortly, he hopes to send a print-out to each State herbarium for deletions, additions and changes with a closing date for return of corrected print-outs. He will then send the amended print-out to the Secretary for printing and despatch to members. The Secretary will advise "Taxon" that this list and the Thesis List is available to non-members at cost price.

Once this issue of ICTRAF has been produced, Council is to approach Heads of Herbaria again about jointly producing a list of research. It was felt that a new edition should be produced no more frequently than once every two years and that one should definitely be produced in time for the International Botanical Congress in 1981.

Name Change for ASBS?

The President explained that he had been approached by some botanists in Melbourne about forming a Botanical Society of Australia, such a broad title covering fields (e.g. anatomy, morphology, cytology and ecology of plants) which are excluded from our title and constitution.

Various points of view were put forward - that other Societies such as the Ecological Society cover some of these interests; that many people working in these fields belong to ASBS already and that our activities at the Chapter level tend to have a much broader scope than systematics alone; that our name is becoming known and it would probably not be advisable to change it. It was felt that Council could not take such a decision on behalf of the membership, and the matter was referred to the next General Meeting for discussion.

Thesis List

The Secretary reported that she had written to the Botany Departments of all Australasian Universities seeking details of theses produced in their department on taxonomic or related topics at Bachelor, Honours, Masters and Doctorate levels. Replies have been received from all but five universities and information received has been transferred to index cards. An index to the subjects covered has yet to be compiled. The list is to be published in the next month or two and will be sent to all members. As reported above, the list will also be available to non-members at cost price.

K.L. WILSON

Secretary

KNOW THE HERBARIA

KINGS PARK HERBARIUM

The Herbarium now has a full-time curator, Anne Coates, who commenced duty on February 20th.

Presently the Herbarium is housed in temporary quarters in the nursery complex. Specimens are mounted on standard sheets in folders and housed in large pine cupboards; about 16,800 specimens are currently held.

The collection is intended for reference by workers at Kings Park and not as a taxonomic research unit. The aim is to obtain representative collections of the State's flora and exotics cultivated in the Botanic Gardens.

Material presently comes from several sources:

Voucher collections for seeds/cuttings obtained in the field by Kings Park Seed Collectors, including F. Lullfitz, D. Young and D.H. Demarz. Voucher collections for cytological and breeding-system studies by G. Keighery.

Collections of Kings Park Flora and cultivated flora by G. Selk (listed as S.nos.).

Collections made by Dr J.S. Beard during his earlier vegetation surveys.

General and voucher seed or cutting material collections made by E. or M. Wittwer.

As far as possible, duplicates of material collected in the field are deposited in PERTH.

G.J. KEIGHERY.

THE SECRET DISCOVERY OF AUSTRALIA

K.G. McIntyre - Souvenir Press, 1977 -

382pp plus references and indices

This exciting 'who dunit' or better 'who found it' does not deal with botany directly in any way, but presents a convincing case for the mapping of the east coast of Australia by the Portuguese explorer Medonca in 1522. The early Portuguese and French maps have been known in Britain since the mid-1700's but adequate credit has not previously been given them. McIntyre covers the history and important politics of the period. He has several chapters on the difficulties of mapping and gives explanations of the distortions of the early maps. He supplies means, motive and opportunity in a convincingly argued case. One of the many questions raised is whether Cook was aware of these maps; if he was not it seems unlikely that Banks was. The several

curious coincidences of names along the coast are discussed. The Portuguese "Coste des Herbiages" and "Botany Bay" occur close together. It is well known that Cook first used "Stingray Harbour" and that this was changed several months later to its present name. This was presumably on the persuasion of Banks who may have been watching the early maps even if these had been dismissed by Cook. It is of interest in this regard that Parkinson, working in the "Botanists suite", was the only author of any of the miscellaneous manuscripts that picked up the name change. McIntyre's pleading that Cook was seeking out Cooktown Harbour with his limping and holed boat is less convincing. Cook's statement that "the harbour (was) much smaller than he had been told" as evidence for him having seen Desliens map where it is overblown in size, while possible, is hardly convincing. Cook had two small boats out nosing along the coast looking for a spot to beach the 'Endeavour' and one can be sure that in that desperate period one of these sped back to Cook and told him of the harbour having made only the most cursory estimate of its size.

A number of difficult plant distribution problems in Australia e.g. Physalis minima, Datura leichhardtii, Solanum erianthum, and Solanum callium to name only a few familiar to me may all be related to early Portuguese and Spanish contacts with the Americans and Australia. It is not often realised how early these were in relation to the settlement of Australia - a Portuguese colony in Timor in 1516 only 250 miles from the NW coast and Spaniards in the Philippines in 1562 both well over 200 years before substantial British contact and it is inconceivable that occasional contact was not made with the northern sector of Australia. A longer period be it noted than from the time of settlement of Botany Bay to the present day. Botanists may have a part to play in the identification and dating of the reputed fragment of the mysterious 'Mahogany Ship' found near Warrnambool which McIntyre suggests was the point of return for Mendonca and could have been one of his ships. One wonders how much early Australian history was lost in the disastrous Lisbon earthquake in 1755, some 13 years before Cook sailed.

The book is fluently written with numerous references for each of its 26 chapters, plus a short appendix of critical dates, and a double index - one of places and subjects, the other of personal names. It is a must for anyone interested in the early history of Australia and its botanical implications may be greater than are at first obvious.

3 Jan. 1978.

D.E. SYMON, Waite Institute,
Adelaide.

John Carrick B.Sc. (Hons.) (Glasgow), F.L.S.

(14 June 1914 - 4 January 1978)

On 4 January 1978 occurred the tragic death of John Carrick, the senior Botanist at the State Herbarium of South Australia. John had been unwell for some time. Since joining the herbarium staff in 1968, John's major field of research was the taxonomic study of the Lamiaceae (labiateae) of Australia. In particular he undertook to revise the large genus Prostanthera and its allied genera, and his passing is all the more regrettable in that his long labours on this genus were only just coming to fruition with the publication of papers in successive issues of the Journal of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens. These papers were intended to be the first of a series establishing the generic concepts in the group, while further work on the delimitation of genera and revisions at the species level were unfortunately left with little on paper. It is to be hoped that someone can be found to complete this latter work, while all the necessary herbarium material is at AD.

The other major facet of John's research was the production of a review of Myrtaceae in South Australia. He assisted Mr C.D. Boomsma with the keys in the latter's "Native Trees of South Australia" (Woods and Forest Department Bull. 19), and, with the assistance of Mr K. Chorney of the State Herbarium, had brought a manuscript on a review of Melaleuca in South Australia to near-completion.

In the period 1970-71 John served as the Australian Botanical Liaison Officer to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England.

Other work performed at Adelaide included the teaching of general botany to trainees in the Botanic Gardens' horticultural course and participation in evening courses on the study of the South Australian Flora with the Workers Educational Association; the production of plant species lists with assessments of vegetation cover at selected sites for the Monarto environmental impact study and (with Mr J.Z. Weber) the Yorke Peninsula Coastal Protection study; and the participation in botanical expeditions, on which he collected especially Lamiaceae and generally other plants throughout Australia, in particular southern and south-western Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria and montane New South Wales.

John graduated from the Glasgow University with a First Class Honours degree in Botany in 1938. Following war service as Radar Officer in the United Kingdom, India and Burma, in 1946 he took up an appointment as Lecturer in Botany teaching mycology and plant pathology at the University of Manitoba, Canada. The period 1952-1967 was spent

in Malaya. Initially he was Lecturer in Botany teaching plant physiology at the University of Malaya (Singapore), and in 1959 transferred to the Kuala Lumpur campus as Senior Lecturer in Botany, where in 1964 he was head of department. In 1965 he was appointed as a Field Pharmacognist under the Colomba Plan, attached to the University of Malaya (Kuala Lumpur) to organize a phytochemical survey of Malaya and to train local personnel.

John is survived by his wife Nan, son Ian, daughter Anne, and his two brothers Robert and Mungo.

John's advice was frequently sought and very freely given on many botanical problems, especially with Latin translation, and as the Herbarium authority to whom to turn for a ruling on English. He was quiet and reserved, very loyal to his family, friends and colleagues, and had a ready sense of humour based much on puns and plays on words. The literary side to his interests was not widely appreciated; he was not only fond of poetry, particularly that of Burns and Shelley, but was no mean poet himself. Brought up in a Presbyterian home, John developed a lifelong interest in various religions, emanating from his service in India during which time he visited a Tibetan monastery, and subsequently evolving his long stay in Malaya.

A full obituary incorporating the memories of those close to John at various periods of his life is intended in a future issue of the Journal of The Adelaide Botanic Gardens.

Compiled from a number of sources by a member - Ed.

The Genus Laxmannia R. Br. (Liliaceae).

Laxmannia is an isolated genus, related closely only to Sowerbaea. The genus contains 13 species, two restricted to eastern Australia (L.sp., L. gracilis), one to central Australia (L.sp.) and 10 to south-western Australia. Laxmannia is biologically unique in the Westralian Liliaceae because it relies on seed for replacement after fire, has little or no vegetative reproduction and possesses a very low chromosome number ($2n=6,8$) yet shows little polyploidy.

The species vary from each other in flowering times, ecological requirements, breeding systems and cytological characteristics (and of course in morphology). Intensive studies on the cytology and

breeding systems of several species have revealed great variation between regions and/or populations. For example, populations of Laxmannia sessiliflora in the Collie area are $2n=6$ and highly inbreeding, whereas populations adjacent to this area are $2n=8$ and obligate outbreeding.

It is thought that such variation can explain the speciation shown in this area compared to Sowerbaea which contains only 2 species, one widespread in the area, and is uniform in cytology and breeding system over its entire range.

G.J. KEIGHERY

Kings Park, West Perth.

Notice:

Supplement to Aquatic Plants of Australia by Helen I. Aston.
(Melbourne University Press: 1973 and reprint 1977)

An eight page, loose-insert supplement applicable to both the original 1973 printing and the 1977 reprint of Aquatic Plants of Australia has been prepared. It contains updated information on Australian aquatic plant taxa, together with a bibliography, and is automatically included with each copy of the reprint. Holders of the 1973 printing may obtain supplements free of charge from Melbourne University Press, P.O. Box 278, Carlton South, Victoria, Australia, 3053. Applicants should include with their request a stamped (20 cents), self-addressed, 10 x 7 inch envelope.

Donation

The Society acknowledges with thanks the donation of \$1.00 to society funds from Mrs R. Erickson, Western Australia.

- Ed.

THE KEW RECORD OF TAXONOMIC LITERATURE

The latest issue of the Kew Record , that covering literature of 1975, was published by Her Majesty's Stationary Office on 17 November, 1977. This annual bibliography is compiled by the staff of the Library and Herbarium of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The references are selected from material received by major botanical libraries, in particular those of Kew, British Museum (Natural History) and the Science Reference Library. The Kew record provides a comprehensive coverage of world taxonomic literature by listing references to periodical articles, books and papers relating to vascular plants. It also lists all new names at every rank, except that of cultivar, published during the year. The main systematics section is supplemented by other sections dealing with floristics, bibliography, personalia and botanical institutions.

Volumes covering the period 1971 to 1975 have now been published. These can be obtained from HMSO Books, PMIC Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London EC1P 1BN. Prices for these volumes are as follows: 1971 (£14.86), 1972 (£20.86), 1973 (£24.86), 1974 (£34.86), 1975 (£42.86) - postage included.

V.T.H. Parry (Chief Librarian & Archivist,
R.B.G. Kew)

B.R. Maslin (A.B.L.O., Kew)

SOME RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Journal of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens, Volume 1 (2) was published on 19 December 1977. It contained the following:

Taxonomic studies in Stackhousia Sm. (Stackhousiaceae) in South Australia. W.R. Barker.

A taxonomic revision of the genus Chloanthes (Chloanthaceae). A.A. Munir.

The species of Malva L. and Lavatera L. (Malvaceae) naturalized in South Australia. W.R. Barker.

Studies in Australian Lamiaceae. Eichlerago, a new genus allied to Prostanthera. J. Carrick.

Notes on Eremophila R.Br. (Myoporaceae) in South Australia.
R.J. Chinnock.

A naturally occurring putative interspecific hybrid in Eremophila.
(Myoporaceae). R.J. Chinnock & P. Hudson.

A putative hybrid between Caladenia dilata var. concinna and
C. patersonii var. patersonii (Orchidaceae). J.Z. Weber & R. Bates.

Endangered species in the South Australian native vascular flora.
J.P. Jessop. (Ed.).

Notes on the South Australian flora - Various authors.

A selection of Australian flower paintings by Ferdinand Bauer.
P.S. Green.

Plant portraits. B. Morley.

Nuytsia, Volume 2 (4) was published early in 1978 and contained the following:

Three new species of Acacia (Mimosaceae) from Western Australia.
A.B. Court.

A new character to distinguish vegetative material of the mangrove
genera Bruguiera and Rhizophora (Rhizophoraceae). K. Kenneally,
P.G. Wilson & V. Semenluk.

A new species of Anigozanthos Labill, from the Murchison River,
Western Australia. D.S. Hopper.

New Taxa and New Combinations in Australian Pittosporaceae.
E.M. Bennett.

Studies in the genus Acacia (Mimosaceae) - 7. The taxonomy of
some diaphyllodinous species. B.R. Maslin.

Five new species of Eucalyptus from Western Australia. M.I.H.
Brooker & D.K. Blaxell.

Ptilotus tetrandrus sp.nov. (Amaranthaceae). G. Benl.

On Wednesday, February 22nd, Daryl Kraehenbuehl, a long-time South Australian naturalist, gave a talk on his considerable researches into South Australian botanical history, entitled "Pioneer German botanists of the first half of the 19th century in South Australia". The talk was supported by copious slides of the original collecting sites (including the area of sand scrub near Bethany where Behr collected, possibly with Mueller, and what is believed to be the little stone hut at Bugle Range where Mueller resided) and pertinent literature, photographs and letters. Daryl dealt in particular with Behr, Mueller, Wilhelmi, Blandowsky, Osswald, Hillebrand, Heuzenroeder and Krichauff. An insight into the itineraries, achievements and characters of these botanists was given, with Blandowsky turning out to be the villain of the piece, at least in the eyes of the Victorian Philosophical Society! Daryl would be well worth contacting on problems relating to botanists of the 19th century, German or otherwise.

Coming Meetings:

Wednesday, April 26th - Shane Parker (SA Museum) - "The present state of bird taxonomy in Australia"

Wednesday, May 31st - David Symon (ADW) - "Fruit and seed diversity and dispersal in Solanum".

Bill Barker

Convener

CANBERRA

Our first meeting for 1978 was held on 14 February. Mr George Chippendale of the CSIRO Division of Forest Research spoke on

"EUCALIST: a means to an end".

The meeting then discussed the recommendations of the subcommittee formed to consider administration of the Nancy Burbidge Memorial Fund and formulated proposals to be presented to Council at their meeting on 15 February.

The next meeting will be held on 16 March, 1978. This will be a combined meeting with the Society for Growing Australian Plants.

Notes on the genus Pandanus (Pandaceae) in Western Australia.
B.C. Stone.

Nomenclatural notes and new taxa in the Conostylis aculeata
group (Haemodaceae). S.D. Hopper.

Volume 2 (3) was published on 4 April 1977.

Apfelbaum, J. (1977). - Australian collections of Labillardiere in
the herbarium of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.
Taxon 26 (5/6): 541-548.

Tillett, S.S. (1977). - Technical aids for systematic botany; new
models of plant-press driers. Taxon 26 (5/6): 553-556.

Henderson, R.J. et al. in Love, A. (1977). IOPB Chromosome numbers
report 58. Taxon 26 (5/6): 560.

CHAPTER NEWS

ADELAIDE

The death of John Carrick was a shock to us all. A brief account
of John's life is given elsewhere in this issue.

The AGM of the Adelaide Chapter was held on Wednesday, November 30th. With Judy West ending a successful term as convener, Bill Barker was elected in her place. The meeting concluded with a talk by Professor Catcheside on "Something about South Australian mosses". Professor Catcheside is writing a moss flora of South Australia.

On Tuesday, January 10th, Brian Morley spoke in honour of Linnaeus on the 200th anniversary of his death. Brian delivered his address to a large gathering at the bust of the father of systematics in the "class grounds" (systematically arranged beds) of the Adelaide Botanic Garden. Professor Catcheside toasted Linnaeus' health at a subsequent luncheon which consisted entirely of vegetables and fruits whose botanical names were provided by Linnaeus. Elise and Gordon Gardiner organized this very successful function.

Dr Neville Marchant, of the Western Australian Herbarium, will speak about

"Darwinias of the Stirling Range".

Estelle M. Canning

BRISBANE

Programme for 1978

Tuesday, 28th February - WINE AND CHEESE EVENING

"The Ecology of Tongaland - the North East Corner of South Africa" by Dr Eugene Moll. Dr Moll gave a very entertaining, informative talk to a large appreciative audience. Aspects of floristics and plant ecology, zoology, anthropology and ornithology in north-eastern Natal were dealt with.

Tuesday, 2nd May

"Ecology and Related Taxonomy of Aquatic Fungi" by Dr Liam Leightley from the University of Queensland.

Tuesday, 27th June

"The Role of Diaspore Appendages in Grasses" by Mr Martin Peart from Gatton.

Tuesday, 29th August

"When to Burn and When Not to Burn. Strategies of Pyric Regeneration in Plant Communities" by Dr Rosemary Purdie from the Queensland Herbarium.

Tuesday, 31st October

"Population Studies on Vegetation on Mt. Snowdon, Wales" by Dr Rod Rogers from the University of Queensland.

VISITORS WELCOME

The meetings will be held in the Tea Room (G38/40) of the Botany Department, University of Queensland at 7.30 p.m.

NOTE: At the meeting of the 29th August, nominations will be called for, and Committee members elected for 1978-79.

Bryan Simon and Cheryl Scarlett
(Convening Committee)

PERTH

In September a new Chapter Committee was elected:

Greg Keighery (Kings Park Board, West Perth) Convener
Roger Hnatniuk (W.A. Herbarium, Jarrah Road) Co-Convener
Bernie Dell (Murdoch University, Murdoch) Co-Convener

Thanks are due to the past committee (Steve Hopper, Malcolm Trudgen and Byron Lamont) for an excellent program over the past year.

News:

Alex George visited the McLarty Hills area in Northern W.A. in August last with a Fisheries and Wildlife party.

Neville Marchant and Greg Keighery spent about two weeks in the Stirling Ranges National Park during October/November to collect material of the endemic Darwinia species for taximetric studies. Some dozen other endemics were also studied for distribution variation and ecology as a comparison.

The W.A. Herbarium is to produce a second version of Nuytsia for ecological and taxonomic notes on the flora of Western Australia.

1979 - 150th Year Celebrations.

Presently it is planned to hold a symposium on the Biology of Native Plants at the University of Western Australia in August 1979. This will be on similar lines to the earlier Hawkesbury conference, and is being organised by Prof. John Pate, Botany Department, University of Western Australia.

Kings Park hopes to hold a smaller 'work-shop' on Plant Evolution and Speciation in Western Australia in conjunction with the above, to

be published as a Kings Park Research Note.

Seminars held:

November: A.S. Weston on The Alpine Flora of South America

December: A.S. Hopkins on The Use of Fire in the Management of Native Reserves.

G. Keighery,

Convener

SYDNEY

At a meeting on 15th February, Roger Carolin and Karen Wilson were elected as conveners for this year.

After the election of conveners, Rod Henderson addressed the meeting on the subject of Dianella species in northeastern Australia. The next two meetings will be:

15 March - Notes and Exhibits

12 April - Laurie Haegi on Keys

K.L. WILSON (co-convener)

M E M B E R S H I P

Membership in Australian Systematic Botany Society is open to all those interested in plant systematics. This also includes any persons overseas and overseas institutions. Membership can be effected by mailing the attached form or sending relevant information to the Treasurer at the address given on page 1 together with relevant fees for the current year.

I wish to become a member of the Australian Systematic Botany Society. I have enclosed a remittance of \$_____ being subscription for the current year.

Name: Dr/Mr/Ms/Mrs/Miss:

Address:

.....

Address for newsletter:

.....

Fees: Australia and Papua/New Guinea A\$6 or \$4 if paid before
31 March or if new member joining after that date.
Elsewhere, US\$8 or equivalent.
